

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 065788
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:FHMISCH/RGRICH:FLW
APPROVED BY S/S:DANDERSON
NSC - MR. ARMACOST
EUR - MR. VEST
EA - MR. OAKLEY
EUR/EE - MR. ANDREWS
EA/PRCM - MR. HART

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
USLO PEKING

S E C R E T STATE 065788

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS 1, 3

TAGS: PEPR, KS, KN, US, YO

SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV PROPOSAL ON U.S.-SOUTH-NORTH KOREA
TALKS

1. DURING HIS CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT CARTER MARCH 7,
PRESIDENT TITO MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF TRIPARTITE
TALKS BETWEEN OFFICIALS OF THE U.S, SOUTH AND NORTH KOREA.
THIS ISSUE WAS DISCUSSED FURTHER AT THE SECRETARY'S
MARCH 8 MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MINIC.

2. THE SECRETARY EXPLAINED TO MINIC THAT WE ARE NOT
INTERESTED IN MEETING WITH THE NORTH KOREANS IN ANY FORUM
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WHICH WOULD EXCLUDE THE ROK, BUT THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO
CLARIFY PRESIDENT TITO'S EARLIER REMARKS ON THE POSSIBILITY
OF TRIPARTITE MEETINGS BELOW THE SUMMIT LEVEL.

3. MINIC SAID THAT KIM IL-SONG'S MESSAGE WHICH ARRIVED
SHORTLY BEFORE TITO DEPARTED FOR WASHINGTON HELD NOTHING
DIFFERENT FROM KIM'S VIEWS OF LAST YEAR ON THE KOREA

QUESTION. MINIC SAID THAT THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT UNDERSTANDS THAT THE QUESTION OF REMOVING PRESIDENT PARK, AS KIM SUGGESTED, IS NOT A SUITABLE TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION, BUT GIVEN THE NORTH'S OPPOSITION TO DEALING DIRECTLY WITH PARK, PRESIDENT TITO THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO BEGIN

A DIALOGUE TOWARD MEETINGS AT A LOWER LEVEL IN ORDER TO UNBLOCK THE PRESENT SITUATION. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WAS A YUGOSLAV PROPOSAL, NOT A NORTH KOREAN PROPOSAL.

4. MINIC ASKED WHAT THE U.S. REACTION TO SUCH A PROPOSAL MIGHT BE, AND THE SECRETARY REMARKED THAT PRESIDENT TITO'S IDEA WAS WORTH PURSUING. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE SAID THAT HE THOUGHT IT MIGHT ALSO BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE ROK. THE OBSTACLE, AS WE SAW IT, WOULD BE KIM IL-SONG BUT WE WOULD PRESENT THE IDEA TO THE SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT.

5. MINIC SAID THAT, IN THAT CASE, HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD COMMUNICATE PRESIDENT TITO'S SUGGESTION TO THE NORTH KOREANS. HE EXPECTED THAT THE INITIAL REACTION WOULD BE NEGATIVE, BUT HOPED THAT AFTER REFLECTION THE NORTH KOREANS WOULD TAKE A MORE "REALISTIC" VIEW OF THE CURRENT SITUATION AND WOULD BECOME MORE FLEXIBLE.

6. IN A SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE CHINESE ATTITUDE TOWARD
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THE KOREA QUESTION, MINIC SAID THAT PRESIDENT TITO HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH HUA KUO-FENG, AND MINIC HIMSELF HAD SONE SO WITH HUANG HUA. THE CHINESE SAID THAT THE PRC WOULD NOT WANT TO INTERFERE IN ANY ASPECT OF THE KOREAN QUESTION AND THAT THE SOLUTION WAS UP TO THE KOREANS THEMSELVES.

7. YOU SHOULD INFORM PRESIDENT PARK OF OUR EXCHANGES WITH THE YUGOSLAVS, EXPLAINING THAT PRESIDENT TITO DID RECEIVE A LETTER FROM KIM IL-SONG, BUT OTHER THAN TELLING US THAT KIM'S VIEWS HAVE NOT CHANGED, THE YUGOSLAVS HAVE NOT PASSED US ANY MESSAGE FROM NORTH KOREA. YOU SHOULD ALSO INFORM PARK OF TITO'S WILLINGNESS TO EXPLORE WITH PYONGYANG WHETHER NORTH KOREA WOULD BE PREPARED TO ENTERTAIN EXPERT-LEVEL TRIPARTITE TALKS.

8. WHILE YOU MAY INDICATE TO PARK THAT WE ARE NOT TOO OPTIMISTIC THAT THIS PROPOSAL WILL ELICIT A POSITIVE RESPONSE IN PYONGYANG, WE HAVE ENCOURAGED THE YUGOSLAVS TO EXPLORE THIS IDEA. WE WOULD APPRECIATE PRESIDENT PARK AUTHORIZING US TO CONVEY A POSITIVE ROKG RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT TITO. THIS WOULD, IN OUR VIEW, STRENGTHEN

THE POSITION OF THE ROKG VIS-A-VIS YUGOSLAVIA, ADDING
TO THEIR INCENTIVE TO PLAY THE SORT OF MODERATING ROLE
IN NON-ALIGNED AND UN CIRCLES WHICH ROK FOMIN SPECIFICALLY
REQUESTED OF SECRETARY VANCE. ALSO, IT WOULD INCREASE
LIKELIHOOD THAT YUGOSLAVS MIGHT MOVE TOWARD CLOSER
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PYONGYANG, YUGOSLAV PROPOSAL FALLS WITHIN ROK STRATEGY.
FOUR-POWER DIALOGUE WHICH WE AND ROK PREFER IS CLEARLY
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9. WE WILL BE FOLLOWING UP IN BELGRADE ON FOREIGN
MINISTER PAK'S DISCUSSION WITH THE SECRETARY MARCH 6
(STATE 59004) REGARDING THE KOREAN ISSUE AT THE NON-
ALIGNED CONFERENCE. VANCE

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DRAFTED BY:RGRICH, JR.
APPROVED BY:RGRICH, JR.
EUR/EE:NANDREWS
S/S-O:JCASTRODALE

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INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO 4325

S E C R E T STATE 065788

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 065788 ACTION SEOUL INFO BELGRADE AND PEKING
DATED
MAR 15, 1978.

QUOTE: S E C R E T STATE 065788

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